

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 04760 132135Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 MMO-01 PER-01 SS-15 SP-02 ABF-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4214

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

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S/NM FOR AMB. VANCE AND DUGSTAD; ARA FOR ACKERMAN AND BROWN;

DEA FOR EOI-CUSACK

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX; A/PER, MEX

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT TO EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR

1. SUMMARY: RECENT INCREASE IN VLLUME AND SCOPE RESPONSIBILITIES EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR HAS GENERATED NEED FOR FULL-TIME ASSISTANT. DESCRIPTION OF AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS POSITION ARE PROVIDED HEREWITH. END SUMMARY

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, IN RECENT MONTHS THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR AND THE REST OF THE NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE UNIT HAVE GROWN APACE, IN KEEPING WITH THE EXPANDED MAGNITUDE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE USG CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE GOM'S ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN. THIS SITUATION HAS CREATED AN ESSENTIAL AND URGENT NEED FOR A FULL-TIME ASSISTANT TO BACKSTOP THE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR. THE REQUIREMENTFOR EXTRA HANDS TO DEAL WITH THE ACROSS-THE-BOARD GROWTH OF NAU ACTIVITY HAS BEEN COMPOUNDED BY THE CONTINUING INFLUX OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS, AND THE GENERAL INTENSIFICATION AND BROADENING OF THE USG/GOM JOINT EFFORT TO ELIMINATE FLWO ILLEGAL DRUGS TO U.S.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 04760 132135Z

3. THE ASSISTANT POSITION WE REQUEST WOULD IDEALLY BE FILLED BY AN FSO-6. AN IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT IS AT LEAST A READING KNOWLEDGE OF SPANISH. THE OFFICER IN THIS JOB WOULD BE EXPECTED TO PERFORM PRESS AND OTHER ROUTINE REPORTING; CARRY OUT RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS; PROCESS CORRESPONDENCE; HELP IN HANDLING CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER OFFICIAL VISITORS(IN THIS CONNECTION WE BELIEVE RECENT PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES CONCERNING PARALLEL MEXICO AND U.S. NARCOTICS COMMISSIONS WILL INEVITABLY PLACE NEW AND CONSIDERABLE DEMANDS ON EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR); ASSIST IN LIAISON WITH OTHER MISSION ELEMENTS; AND IN GENERAL TO BE FAMILIAR WITH ALL ASPECTS OF THE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR'S AND NAU'S RESPONSIBILITIES. HE WOULD ALSO PROVIDE A MUCH-NEEDED ELEMENT OF CONTINUITY ON THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SIDE.

4. ALTHOUGH THIS POSITION MIGHT BE FILLED QUICKLY ON AN INTERIM BASIS BY A TDY OFFICER, OVER THE LONG PULL A PERMANENT ASSISTANT IS NEEDED. THE EMBASSY HAS SRIOUSLY EXPLORED THE POSSIBILITY OF SATISFYING THIS REQUIREMENT FROM EXISTING STAFF, BUT SEES NO WAY THAT THIS CAN BE DONE. IT IS THEREFORE REQUESTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT APPROVE AND FILL THIS POSITION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH A HIGLY QUALIFIED OFFICER.

5. AMBASSADOR JOVA(ABSENT FROM MEXICO ON HOME LEAVE) STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM THROUGH THE CREATION OF THIS NEW POSITION. THOMPSON

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